

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 12-219

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Raymond Wildlife Area Irrigation and Water System Improvement

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 2, GMU 5B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Forage Resource Study Group

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[] NO[x]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[x]

If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Water development, tank and ditch clean out, irrigation.

Brief Project Summary: Promote wildlife usage at Raymond wildlife area by repairing the water supply and delivery system by removing silt from tanks and ditches, and by installation of new drinkers. Irrigate grasslands both actively and passively to promote vegetation growth.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Buffalo, Antelope, Mule deer, Elk

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:

Sept 2012

Project End Date:

Sept 2013

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes[x] No[] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes[x] No[] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[]

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$ 30,000

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$

Total Project Costs:

\$ 30,000

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Allen Zufelt

Address:

3500 Lake Mary rd
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

E-mail:

azufelt@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 928-699-5273

Date: 04 Sep 2012

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Allen Zufelt 928-699-5273

Project has been coordinated with:

Carl Lutch (acting region 2 regional supervisor)

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Natural water sources have become increasingly degraded by down-stream flow of silt filling tanks and the ditch which supplies 7 different stock pond type tanks. The system now barely works at all and tanks which have been permanent waters historically are becoming seasonal only. Silt removal from the ditch and tanks will provide good flow and filling capability for 7 dirt tanks.

Current drinkers are too small to support the needs of the local buffalo herd. Larger troughs will be installed with solar circulation pumps to provide more quantity of water, and ice free water during the winter months.

Neighboring ranches have suggested that better forage quality would promote the Raymond buffalo herd to staying within the boundary of the Raymond wildlife area. Irrigation of the native grassland will promote zones of high quality forage for all wildlife species.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Improve water availability for Buffalo, Antelope, Mule Deer and Elk on Raymond wildlife area.
Improve the amount of available, high-quality forage through irrigation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Remove silt build up from Silt tank.
Remove silt build up from Tillman tank and repair the dike.
Remove silt and re-channel the ditch system which feeds the natural waters at Raymond wildlife area.
Install new, large volume and freeze-proof drinkers at Raymond wildlife area's east and west wells.
Irrigate up to 10 acres of grassland to promote vegetative growth.
Install rock spreader dams across washes to promote passive irrigation for improved vegetative growth.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Raymond wildlife area

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- Arizona Game and Fish department

*IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or
LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?*
YES[] NO[] N/A[x]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

5,500-6,500 ft elevation grassland and juniper woodland areas of the Raymond wildlife area

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Tank cleanout and ditch repair, \$8,000. Drinkers, \$2,000. Concrete for drinker installation, \$3,000. Sprinklers and misc plumbing, \$3,000. CREC crew time 2 weeks, \$14,000.

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

AZGFD

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[] NO[x] N/A[]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The Raymond wildlife area manager will monitor water levels and irrigate forage plots to achieve desired results.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Raymond wildlife area manager

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Raymond wildlife area manager

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

See attached

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

n/a

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Raymond Wildlife Area Irrigation and Water System Improvement

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**
No
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
Mark Davis, heavy equipment supervisor, July 2012
- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**
☐2-4 ☐4-6 ☐6-8 ☐8-10 ☒10-12 ☐12-14 ☐14-16 ☐ >16
- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**
YES☒ (please complete #5 below) NO☐ (skip #5 below)
- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**
Name of water source: Raymond wildlife area west well
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): well/drinker
Ownership of water source: AZGFD
Distance in miles from project: 0
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts? YES☐ NO☒**
- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**
n/a
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): ☒2x4 vehicles ☐4x4 only ☐foot only**

**If foot access only: Distance in miles: _____ Approximate hiking time: _____

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES☐ NO☐

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:

9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**

10) **Was a site visit completed? Yes☒ No☐**
If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.
Mark Davis & Allen Zufelt, July 2012